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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic
(Report #264 - As of 7:00 am EDT)

The rebel Caamano government is evidently no longer trying to restrain--and in fact seems to be abetting--the anti-US agitation by Communist and pro-Castro groups.

The anti-US cast of yesterday's mass rally in rebel territory was more blatant than on any previous such occasion when top rebel leaders were present. Information that has become available since the last Dominican Situation Report indicates that the strident anti-US theme rivaled all other themes at the rally. Communist or pro-Castro influence was evident in the placards carried by individuals and in the presence in the crowd of armed men wearing the distinctive "uniform" of the pro-Castro Fourteenth of June Political Group (APCJ). The principal speakers, Caamano and Aristy, gave the crowd a new "proletarian" emphasis to the revolution; Caamano declared that "our struggle is for a republic of the workers, brothers" and Aristy claimed that "the workers are in the vanguard of the fight."

The responsive crowd at the rally was made up largely of youths, although some others were also present. According to press reports, a number of participants had come in from outside the rebel-held area of the city for the occasion.

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The rebel-controlled radio, in keeping with the tenor of the rally, broadcast a commentary later in the day likening US troops to gangsters. "Al Capone, Dillinger...and all the other gangsters...pale in comparison with the Yankee interventionist troops which Mr. Johnson sent to the Dominican Republic," the commentator charged. He went on to declare that "we have never read about or seen so much cruelty and so many crimes committed by any gangster...as are being committed by the barbarian Yankee troops...in the poor and unfortunate Dominican Republic." The broadcast referred to only one specific incident--the alleged "shelling" of rebel territory Friday evening.

There is still no evidence as to the origin of the projectiles that hit rebel territory that night, although it has been demonstrated that they were not fired by US troops and were not of US origin. Examination of the fragments reveals that the fuze of the projectile was of French origin and of a design initiated in the year 1918. Suspicion remains that the firing may have been done by loyalist troops--or even by rebel forces seeking a useful propaganda gimmick.

Meanwhile, the rebels' "Dominican constitutional congress" gave its final approval yesterday to the elimination of the rank of general from the Dominican armed forces. The measure is described as a response to the people's wishes because of the corruption and crimes which generals have been responsible for in the past.

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There continue to be rumors that loyalist forces intend to launch an all-out attack on the rebel stronghold imminently; the rebels apparently take these rumors seriously. There is no doubt that the bulk of the loyalist commanders are anxious for early action against the rebels and some of them are evidently pressing Imbert to approve such action, which they regard as the only effective way to end the current impasse. However, the presence of US and Latin American troops between the rebels and the loyalists would complicate a loyalist move into rebel territory.

The three-man ad hoc committee of the Organization of American States has already met with the principal figures on the loyalist and rebel sides and plans in the immediate future to confer with military leaders of both sides and with the so-called Santiago group and other proponents of a "third position" solution to the crisis. The return from New York of Francisco Augusto Lora--apparently yesterday--will probably add a new element to the range of possible political solutions. Lora is former President Joaquin Balaguer's principal aide in the Dominican Republic and has been conferring with Balaguer in New York for several days. Balaguer, whose Reformist Party is the only viable Dominican political party rivaling Bosch's in popular strength, has been promoting the idea of a quick, OAS-sponsored election as the basis for a solution.

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